

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DLOS-09 SOE-02

AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02

PA-01 DOE-11 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /159 W

-----022492 172217Z /62

R 170931Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6256

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 04368

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM PCAT JA

SUBJECT: CURRENT FONOFF THINKING ON SSOD -- FONMIN SONODA

- TO ATTEND

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 15, FONOFF DISARMAMENT DIVDIR WATANABE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO CURRENT PLANS, FONMIN SUNAO SONODA WILL LEAD JAPANESE DELEGATION TO UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD). SONODA WOULD ARRIVE IN NEW YORK MAY 27, ADDRESS SSOD AFTERNOON OF MAY 30, HOST RECEPTION THAT EVENING, AND DEPART JUNE 1 OR JUNE 2. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER FONOFF OFFICIALS THAT CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO SONODA'S PARTICIPATION IN JAPANESE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS NEW YORK VISIT.) WATANABE SAID GOJ MOST INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD ADDRESS SSOD JUNE 1. PLEASE ADVISE.

2. CONCERNING SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED MAY 30, WATANABE SAID IT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH GOJ POSITIONS. WATANABE SAID SONODA WOULD PLACE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT SPEECH WOULD ALSO TOUCH ON SUCH "CHERISHED" ITEMS AS CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS AND REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS. ON COMPREHENSIVE TEXT BAN (CTB) TREATY, WATANABE THOUGHT THAT IN ABSENCE CONCRETE AGREEMENT BY TIME OF SSOD, GOJ WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE US, USSR, AND GREAT BRITAIN TO ACCELERATE NEGOTIATIONS. HE NOTED GOJ POSITION WAS MORE OR LESS SAME WITH RESPECT TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS

(CW) BAN. WATANABE SAID SONODA REMARKS IN REGARD TO THESE MATTERS WOULD NOT BE CRITICAL, ASSURING EMBOFF THAT "WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO" ON BOTH CTB AND CW.

3. WATANABE SAID BASIC GOJ POSITION ON SECURITY ASSURANCES REMAINS THAT, SINCE JAPAN BENEFITS FROM US NUCLEAR UMBRELLA AND RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IN MAINTAINING BALANCE OF POWER, JAPAN WAS IN NO POSITION TO PROPOSE TREATY BANNING ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HOWEVER, GIVEN JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION, PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION, AND NGO PRESSURE TO BAN USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, GOJ COULD NOT IGNORE GENUINE SENTIMENT OF NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES (NNWS) WHO WERE NOT PARTY TO SECURITY TREATY WITH OR IN MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES. WATANABE FELT THIS GROWING VOICE WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED AT SSOD, AND SAID JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF HOW TO TACKLE PROBLEM. EMPHASIZING DESIRE TO BE IN HARMONY WITH US POSITION, WATANABE SAID IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL FOR JAPANESE TO KNOW USG THINKING ON SECURITY ASSURANCES IN PARTICULAR, AND SSOD IN GENERAL. WATANABE SUGGESTED THAT BEST PLACE FOR EXCHANGE OF SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE WASHINGTON. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, MEETING DELEGATIONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO04368
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-0039
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780352/aaaabscv.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10a87cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3285030
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT FONOFF THINKING ON SSOD -- FONMIN SONODA - TO ATTEND
TAGS: PARM, PCAT, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10a87cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014